

Montana DEQ Forest Fire Smoke Advisory

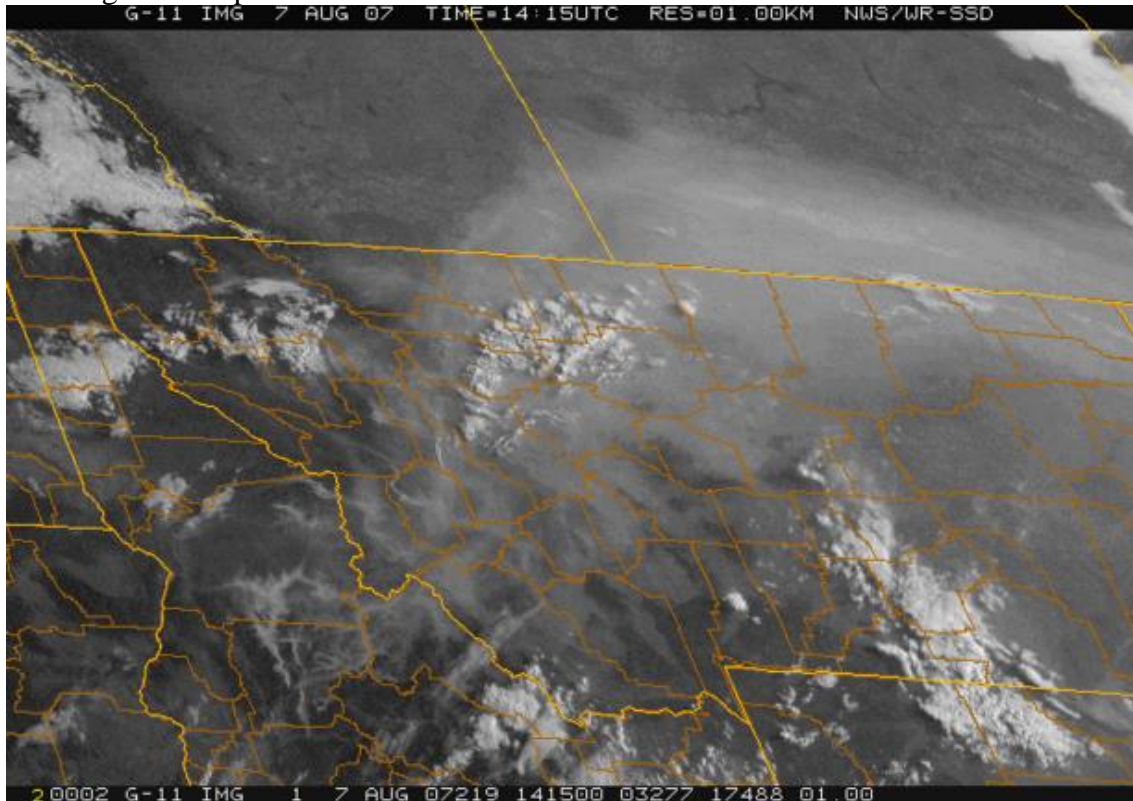
August 07 2007

10:00 AM Tuesday

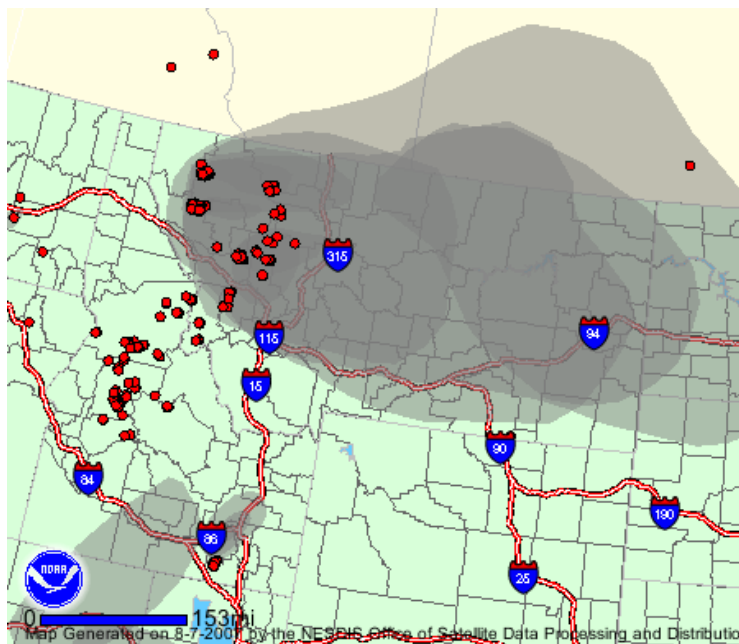
Current Situation

Low level inversions have trapped smoke just overhead in some of the western valleys that were so smoky yesterday leaving the near surface layer clearer. The relief will be short lived for most of these areas as west winds will mix the smoke down by late morning. Smoke in the valleys with active local fires is very much a problem today. The Southern Bitterroot is packed with smoke and so are the northern Flathead and the Rock Creek areas. Smoke levels in Whitefish, Kalispell, Polson, Ronan, Seeley Lake, Butte, and Hamilton are at [UNHEALTHY](#) this morning. Along the western Hi-line, Cut Bank is right in the path of smoke from several fires and conditions there are [UNHEALTHY](#) at this time. Great Falls and Helena are at [UNHEALTHY FOR SENSITIVE](#) this morning. [MODERATE](#) levels of smoke are also persisting in the eastern end of the state in Miles City and Baker. Missoula has cleared out to [MODERATE](#) as west winds are favorable for them. Dillon is also seeing [MODERATE](#) levels of smoke this morning. Red Flag warning over the active fires will cause problems this afternoon. See the forecast below. Residents near active fires or experiencing noticeable smoke levels should use the [VISIBILITY GUIDELINES](#) to determine smoke levels in their area and guide their activity decisions.

Morning satellite photo centered on Great Falls:



This morning's analysis from NOAA's satellite services division shows the active fires in Montana and the smoke plumes combining and spreading downwind(the analyzed smoke is based on yesterday's satellite coverage, the fire detects are based on last nights satellite coverage)

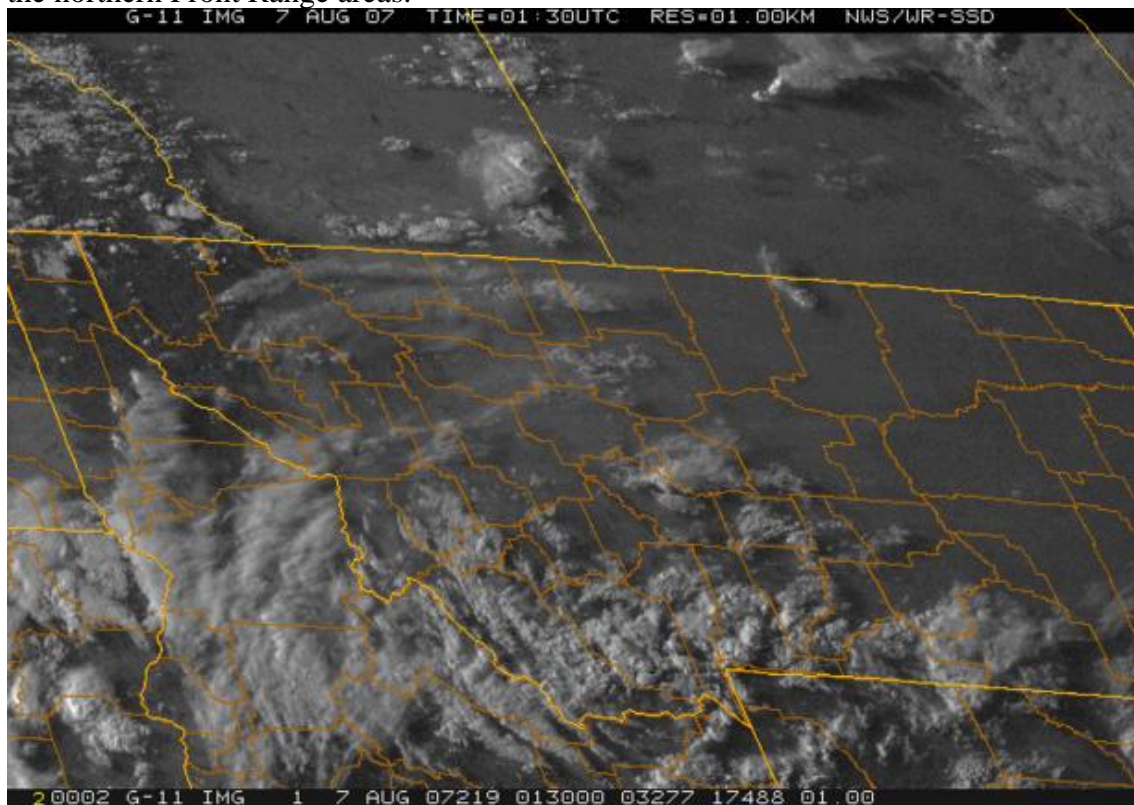


Red indicates hot spot detected. Grey represents smoke seen by satellite. Fire size is exaggerated for visibility at this scale

To identify individual fires on graphic above go here:

http://activefiremaps.fs.fed.us/lg_fire2.php

This satellite photo from 8PM last night clearly shows the plumes from the Brush Creek and Chippy Creek Fires Stretching over the Flathead Valley, Glacier National Park, and the northern Front Range areas.



Real time particulate information is currently available in most of the larger urban areas from several different sources including: DEQ run PM-10 BAMS and PM2.5 BAMS, CS&KT run PM-10 TEOMS, NWS ASOS visibility monitors, and USFS remote access Nephelometers and BAMS.

This morning's smoke report is below, comparing particulate levels where we have information to MDEQ's Forest Fire health advisory levels.

Updated 10 AM August 07, 2007

Locations and severity of forest fire smoke reports since midnight of the date above at reporting stations.

HAZARDOUS	
VERY UNHEALTHY	
UNHEALTHY	Whitefish T24 Kalispell T24 Polson T24 Ronan T24 Seeley Lake (est) Hamilton T24 Butte T24 Cut Bank Vis(8)
UNHEALTHY FOR SENSITIVE GROUPS	Helena T8 Great Falls Vis(8)
MODERATE	Missoula T24 Bozeman Vis(5) Dillon Vis(1) Miles City Vis(3) Baker Vis(1)

T1(x)	One-hour TEOM or BAM value (number of values)
T8(x)	Eight-hour average TEOM or BAM value(number of values)
T24	24 hour average TEOM or BAM value
Vis(x)	Visibility value(number of hours)
Vis(am/pm)	Visibility value from twice/day reporting stations
(est)	estimate

Local impacts in areas immediately adjacent to active fires are expected to exceed some or all of the advisory levels. DEQ recommends the use of local [visibility guidelines](#) to evaluate possible health risks and make informed activity decisions.

Forecast

West winds will pick up strongly later today and tonight. Smoke impacts in areas east of the fires will continue to be a problem. Smoke aloft will mix down over some areas and produce sharply higher smoke impacts. The northern Flathead, the northern Front Range, Seeley Lake, the southern Bitterroot Valley, The Rock Creek area, and Butte should all continue to see [UNHEALTHY](#) levels of smoke at times throughout the day and tonight. The current wind direction is favorable for Missoula and they should continue to see some relief today. Great Falls and Helena will likely stay at [UNHEALTHY FOR SENSITIVE](#) all day. With Red Flag warnings out for most of the current active fires, large plume development is likely again today and local smoke impacts could be severe. Residents near active fires need to pay close attention to conditions in their area and use the [visibility guidelines](#) to guide their activity decisions as the situation changes.

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